

ALASKA'S 2002 CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

JANUARY & FEBRUARY experienced above normal temperatures in many areas across Alaska. Precipitation levels varied by location but the South Central area had below normal precipitation, while the Interior was near normal in January but below normal in February.

MARCH & APRIL temperatures were generally cooler than normal in crop growing areas. Precipitation was above normal in South Central due to a major snow storm in mid-March but near normal in April. The Interior had just the opposite, with below normal precipitation in March but above normal precipitation in April.

MAY temperatures were below normal the first weeks of May, limiting any field work that would typically be underway. Precipitation was above normal. The last two weeks of the month were warmer and drier than normal, allowing fields to dry out and planting of field crops to begin. By month's end 80% of the barley crop and 30% of the oat and potato crops were planted. Vegetables were being transplanted in both the Mat-Su Valley and Kenai Peninsula.

JUNE temperatures were slightly below normal for the month. Some much needed rain fell during the beginning of June but dry conditions returned by the end of the month. Barley was 30% in boot, while the oat crop was 15% in boot as the month ended. Potatoes were 75% emerged and hay harvest was a third complete. Harvesting of vegetables continued.

JULY temperatures were normal in most areas, however, precipitation was below normal in the Mat-Su Valley and above normal in the Interior. Rains hampered the hay harvest near Delta Junction at the beginning of the month. Statewide the 1st cutting of hay was 95% complete by month's end. Barley was

just beginning to turn color in the Delta Junction area but was reported as 75% in dough across the state. The oat crop was 40% in dough. Both crops were rated as good to excellent. Potatoes were 55% in bloom.

AUGUST brought hot, dry weather across the state, which caused topsoil and subsoil moisture levels to fall below normal early in the month. Cool temperatures and rain later in the month returned moisture levels to near normal. Potatoes, barley, and vegetables were all being harvested by the end of the month. Oat harvest would start during the 1st week of September. Second cutting of hay continued.

SEPTEMBER showed scattered frosts being reported in Delta Junction and along the Kenai the first week of the month. Temperatures were slightly above normal and precipitation near normal. The last report in September had the barley harvest 90% complete, and the oat and potato harvests at 80% complete. State hay supplies were reported as 15% short and 85% adequate.

OCTOBER through DECEMBER temperatures were unseasonably warm through mid-December when more normal temperatures returned to give Alaska its first real taste of winter. Precipitation varied by month with October being wetter and November being drier than normal in most locations. Snow cover was light in many growing areas until after mid month. Precipitation levels in December varied by location with the Interior being drier than normal while South Central was above normal.

Detailed summaries of temperatures and precipitation are shown on the next two pages. Data for these summaries are taken from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration monthly publication of Climatological data.

ALASKA PRECIPITATION DATA (Inches)															
Station	2002 Precipitation							2002 Snow	Average Precipitation 1/						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year
TANANA VALLEY															
Fairbanks Ap.	3.06	0.38	0.78	2.63	3.02	1.09	13.33	49	0.28	0.57	1.33	1.81	1.88	1.05	10.51
University Exp. Sta.	2.62	0.48	1.30	2.71	3.71	1.15	14.43 ^{2/}	NA	0.25	0.67	1.57	2.11	2.34	1.26	12.24
Eielson Field	2.07	0.47	1.73	3.56	5.85	1.57	17.60	51	0.35	0.74	1.72	2.46	2.34	1.37	13.02
Big Delta Ap.	0.57	0.48	2.99	2.06	3.52	1.26	12.03	NA	0.25	0.87	2.31	2.65	2.01	1.09	11.54
MATANUSKA VALLEY															
Anchorage Ap.	0.29	0.27	1.01	1.46	3.51	3.36	18.31	26	0.54	0.67	1.01	1.92	2.68	2.61	15.68
Lazy Mountain	1.12	0.85	1.20	1.12	5.00	4.61	21.31	94	0.41	0.99	1.37	2.06	3.08	2.98	19.15
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	0.86	0.59	0.86	1.37	4.62	3.18	17.75	54	0.45	0.73	1.39	2.21	2.57	2.45	15.40
Mirror Lake	0.63	NA	NA	NA	3.45	3.94	13.78 ^{2/}	42	0.25	0.87	1.26	2.15	2.57	2.23	NA
KENAI PENINSULA															
Homer Ap.	0.24	0.53	0.33	1.58	2.04	3.65	31.91	121	1.21	1.02	0.97	1.60	2.52	3.03	25.16
Kenai Ap.	0.69	0.47	1.17	1.89	2.96	4.50	21.32	79	0.74	0.93	1.18	1.95	2.67	3.30	19.38
OTHER AREAS															
Kodiak Ap.	0.29	3.96	8.38	5.96	2.93	3.85	91.60	90	5.40	5.84	5.41	4.17	4.43	7.76	76.88
Nome Ap.	1.50	0.54	0.30	1.52	0.62	2.97	13.97	NA	0.71	0.69	1.05	2.19	3.30	2.50	15.95
McGrath Ap.	1.75	1.02	0.76	1.38	2.18	2.96	15.36	64	0.70	0.90	1.52	2.26	2.96	2.29	17.28
Juneau Ap.	0.47	2.37	3.40	4.72	10.50	6.08	62.27	54	2.87	3.54	3.10	4.36	5.40	7.22	56.73
Cold Bay Ap.	1.92	6.84	1.88	1.34	3.58	4.23	54.35	41	2.06	2.55	2.47	2.46	3.75	4.29	38.52

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 1971 - 2002 when data available from the Alaska Climate Summaries.

2/ Data is incomplete, most months are missing 5 or more days of data.

ALASKA TEMPERATURE DATA

Station	2002 Averages					Historical Averages 1/					Average No. of Freeze Free days 2/	Elevation in Feet
	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep		
	Degrees										Days	Feet
TANANA VALLEY												
Fairbanks Ap.	30	3	23	62	47	27	-10	31	62	45	112	436
University Exp. Sta.	32	7	25	61	47	28	-7	31	61	45	91	475
Eielson Field	31	5	25	61	47	26	-10	31	61	45	108	547
Big Delta Ap.	32	10	23	60	46	28	-3	31	60	44	105	1,268
MATANUSKA VALLEY												
Anchorage Ap.	39	24	31	60	50	36	15	36	58	48	138	114
Lazy Mountain	37	21	30	57	46	35	17	35	56	45	104	728
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	39	23	32	60	49	36	13	37	58	48	110	150
Mirror Lake	34	20	31	NA	48	NA	15	37	57	47	87	405
KENAI PENINSULA												
Homer Ap.	41	30	35	55	50	38	23	36	53	47	115	89
Kenai Ap.	37	25	30	55	49	34	13	34	55	47	105	86
OTHER AREAS												
Kodiak Ap.	42	31	38	54	50	41	31	38	55	50	140	111
Nome Ap.	30	2	20	52	43	26	6	19	51	42	78	13
McGrath Ap.	31	4	25	60	47	26	-7	27	59	44	105	344
Juneau Ap.	42	31	36	55	50	41	24	40	56	50	139	12
Cold Bay Ap.	41	31	37	52	49	38	28	33	50	48	133	90

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 1970 - 2002 when data available.

2/ Average based on historical records, number of years used varies by location from 18 to 85 years.

WEEKLY PAN EVAPORATION AND PRECIPITATION, 1999 - 2002 GROWING SEASON																
Month/Week																
	1999				2000				2001				2002			
	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total
May-Week 1	0.74	0.74	0.06	0.06	1.19	1.19	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.35	0.35	0.60	0.60	0.06	0.06
Week 2	1.11	1.85	0.07	0.13	1.01	2.20	0.05	0.06	0.56	0.60	0.36	0.71	0.09	0.69	0.33	0.39
Week 3	1.26	3.11	0.03	0.16	0.22	2.42	0.71	0.77	0.75	1.35	0.12	0.83	0.97	1.66	0.15	0.54
Week 4	-0.59	2.52	1.39	1.55	0.76	3.18	0.22	0.99	0.61	1.96	0.15	0.98	1.30	2.96	0.00	0.54
June-Week 1	0.67	3.19	0.39	1.94	1.15	4.33	0.02	1.01	1.17	3.13	0.03	1.01	0.70	3.66	0.30	0.84
Week 2	1.56	4.75	0.00	1.94	1.04	5.37	0.04	1.05	0.39	3.52	0.34	1.35	0.54	4.20	0.26	1.10
Week 3	NA	4.75	0.00	1.94	0.70	6.07	0.20	1.25	0.43	3.95	0.48	1.83	1.00	5.20	0.01	1.11
Week 4	0.56	5.31	0.37	2.31	1.15	7.22	0.05	1.30	1.30	5.25	0.00	1.83	0.74	5.94	0.17	1.28
Week 5	1.16	6.47	0.00	2.31	-0.18	7.04	0.73	2.03	1.20	6.45	0.12	1.95	1.14	7.08	0.17	1.45
July-Week 1	1.07	7.54	0.00	2.31	0.20	7.24	0.60	2.63	-1.36	5.09	1.85	3.80	0.54	7.62	0.18	1.63
Week 2	0.02	7.56	0.63	2.94	0.41	7.65	0.26	2.89	-0.55	4.54	0.97	4.77	1.09	8.71	0.00	1.63
Week 3	0.33	7.89	0.57	3.51	-0.08	7.57	0.79	3.68	0.35	4.89	0.26	5.03	1.20	9.91	0.38	2.01
Week 4	0.04	7.93	0.95	4.46	0.33	7.90	0.35	4.03	0.01	4.90	0.52	5.55	-0.30	9.61	0.81	2.82
August-Week 1	0.36	8.29	0.59	5.05	0.49	8.39	0.17	4.20	-0.04	4.86	0.55	6.10	1.25	10.86	0.00	2.82
Week 2	-1.87	6.42	2.94	7.99	0.63	9.02	0.14	4.34	0.84	5.70	0.00	6.10	-1.38	9.48	1.93	4.75
Week 3	0.58	7.00	0.08	8.07	0.20	9.22	1.06	5.40	-0.05	5.65	0.59	6.69	0.03	9.51	1.04	5.79
Week 4	-0.03	6.97	0.61	8.68	0.13	9.35	0.37	5.77	0.57	6.22	0.06	6.75	-1.26	8.25	1.45	7.24
Sept-Week 1	-0.48	6.49	0.78	9.46	-0.16	9.19	0.54	6.31	0.32	6.54	0.10	6.85	-0.10	8.15	1.06	8.30
Week 2	0.38	6.87	0.00	9.46	0.26	9.45	0.16	6.47	0.81	7.35	1.73	8.58	-0.34	7.81	0.30	8.60
Week 3	-0.14	6.73	0.53	9.99	0.21	9.66	0.22	6.69	0.53	7.88	0.00	8.58	0.07	7.88	0.18	8.78
Week 4	-0.18	6.55	0.41	10.40	-1.18	8.48	1.55	8.24	0.30	8.18	0.13	8.71	0.14	8.02	1.30	10.08
Week 5	-0.78	5.77	0.88	11.28	0.27	8.75	0.84	9.08	0.26	8.44	0.00	8.71	-1.16	6.86	0.00	10.08
Seasonal Totals	5.77			11.28	8.75			9.08	8.44			8.71	6.86			10.08

NOTE: Weekly evaporation and precipitation (in inches) data is collected and provided by UAF, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, located on Trunk Road in Palmer, Alaska.